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TWENTY-THIRD

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PHILADELPHIA

FEMALE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

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PHILADELPHIA:  
MERRIHEW & THOMPSON, PRINTERS  
Lodge street, north side of Pennsylvania Bank.

1857.

TESTIMONY

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PRINTED BY

W. B. LEECH & COMPANY, PHILADELPHIA

1841



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OFFICERS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

PRESIDENT,

SARAH PUGH.

VICE PRESIDENT,

SIDNEY ANN LEWIS.

RECORDING SECRETARY,

ABBY KIMBER,

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,

MARY GREW.

TREASURER,

ANNA SHOEMAKER.

BOARD OF MANAGERS,

LUCRETIA MOTT,

MARTHA A. GALVIN,

LYDIA WHITE,

MARTHA KIMBER,

MARGARETTA FORTEN, MARIA M. DAVIS.

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1857



## REPORT.

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Our last Anniversary was memorable as the birthday of freedom to one who had worn the fetters and borne the brand of slavery, through a long life. While we were assembled here in anti-slavery council, a woman who, up to that hour, had been a slave, was, with the aid of a few of our vigilant coadjutors, made free by Pennsylvania law. As unto a fitting temple and altar, she was brought hither, to utter her first free speech in a Hall consecrated by the name of an apostle of Liberty, and to present her first thank-offering for the blessed boon of freedom, in an anniversary meeting of an Anti-Slavery Society. They who on that occasion heard the simple story of her life of bondage, will not soon forget the emotions with which they listened; and some were with us that day, who, for the first time, heard such testimony from the lips of one who spoke from experience.

We hailed, as an omen of good, this joyful event with which a new year opened upon us. The year closes, and leaves us mourning over its enacted con-

trast. For the first time since the death of the notorious Commissioner Ingraham, a period of more than two years, our city has been disgraced by the successful kidnapping of a man alleged to be a fugitive slave. But a few weeks have elapsed since the decision of a U. S. Commissioner, David Paul Brown, Jr., doomed to life-long, helpless, hopeless slavery, a man who either was born in a condition of freedom, or valued it sufficiently to achieve it for himself. Henry Tiffany, who, for years, lived among us, a free man, trusting in Pennsylvania law or public sentiment to protect his inalienable right to liberty, has been surrendered into the hands of tormentors whose tender mercies are cruelty. Against this, Philadelphia utters no protest; Pennsylvania has no voice of indignant remonstrance. A few abolitionists, who acknowledge in the slave a brother man, stand by his side in the Court-room, mingle their tears with his, speak parting words of sympathy; an earnest lawyer pleads his cause with fervent eloquence, as though he were pleading for son or brother; in a few anti-slavery meetings the outrage on human rights is discussed, and this is all; the city and the State are unmoved, they care not for such things, so that their commerce and their politics be undisturbed.

Thus with alternate triumph and defeat, joy and sorrow, hope and fear, do we urge on our conflict



with American Slavery; never, in the brightest hour, forgetting that arduous duties are before us; never, in the darkest, despairing of ultimate victory. In reviewing the past year, we see many indications of the progress of our enterprise. It is true that a Senator of Massachusetts, for words spoken in the United States Senate Chamber, in behalf of freedom, has been stricken down, on the floor of that Senate Chamber, by a murderous hand; it is true that Kansas, bleeding at every vein, is still in the grasp of the Slave Power; it is true that in the great political contest which has convulsed the nation, the hosts of Slavery were triumphant; yet, notwithstanding all this, we can clearly perceive that the anti-slavery cause is advancing. The desperate measures to which tyranny resorts to maintain its tottering bulwarks, often hasten their downfall. The cowardly and murderous assault upon Charles Sumner aroused in the heart of Massachusetts indignation which will not be appeased, and which is teaching many of her order-loving, law-abiding citizens to calculate the value of a Union which cannot secure, to a sovereign State, freedom of speech in the councils of the nation. The gross violations of law and justice, practised by the Border Ruffians of Missouri upon the inhabitants of Kansas, and sustained by the Federal Government, have awakened, throughout the North, a spirit of re-

sistance, such as the Slave Power has never before aroused. In the fierce struggle through which the nation has recently passed, contending for the Presidential election, the only issue really before the people was the extension or non-extension of slavery. Other party issues were waived, and upon this question the nation divided, and rushed to the conflict. Thus the attention of the whole North was fixed upon the subject of slavery, its claims and its merits. It is true that the Republican Party waged no war against the existence of slavery, that it disclaimed the name of Anti-Slavery and the taint of abolitionism; it is true that it asserted and reiterated, by its organs and its leaders, that it left "slavery where the Constitution leaves it;" that it did "not propose to liberate a single slave;" that it was "directed quite as much against the ultraism of abolition, as against the kindred ultraism of slavery;" that its object was "to throw a barrier around soil now free, and keep it for the free white man forever;" yet by its demand for the non-extension of slavery, and by the arguments with which it urged the demand, it suggested to many an honest mind the inquiry, "Should a system, the extension of which would be fraught with such unutterable evil, be suffered to exist at all, in this republic?" To this inquiry, seriously made, thoroughly considered, and truthfully answered, the



North must come, at last. On this depends the success of our enterprise and the salvation of our country. Over Kansas secured to Freedom, we should heartily exult; for every fugitive slave who passes in safety our northern border, we thank God; in every triumph of Liberty over Slavery we rejoice; but abolitionists cannot be diverted, by any minor issues, from the great purpose of their enterprise, which is the utter abolition of American Slavery. We are the representatives of the American slave; our party is his party. *We* do not intend to leave "slavery where the Constitution leaves it;" we *do* "propose to liberate," not a single slave, but every slave in our land; our object is not only "to throw a barrier around soil now free," but to win for freedom every foot of our slavery-cursed soil. We repudiate Constitutions or laws which support or sanction the enslavement of human beings. This is our platform, and the times demand of us uncompromising fidelity to its principles. While the nation is convulsed with internal strife, while political parties are compromising the principles of eternal Right, for the sake of a false expediency, while some of our coadjutors, whom we accounted true and steadfast, have yielded to the strong temptations of a Presidential election, and fallen from their high position, it is imperatively demanded of those who stand on the platform of the

American Anti-Slavery Society, that with unwearied diligence and unabating zeal, they should urge its regenerating principles upon the conscience and heart of the people. It is by the proclamation of these principles in willing and unwilling ears, by steady persistence, year after year, in stern denunciation of slaveholding, in solemn rebuke of the slaveholder and his allies, in uncompromising demands for justice to the slave, by consistent refusal of allegiance to a Constitution which requires the surrender of the fugitive slave, that Abolitionists have created the public sentiment against slavery which now exists in the North, and which has assumed various forms of manifestation during the past year.

Every year confirms our faith in the efficiency of the measures by which we are striving to carry forward this reform. While they are the most simple, they are the most potent weapons which have ever been used in the great moral warfare between Right and Wrong, since the beginning of the world. The world's renowned warriors, who can believe in no stronger forces than cannon balls, have always derided "the foolishness of preaching;" statesmen and politicians sneer at "moral suasion;" but in so doing they only prove themselves unlearned in the philosophy of the human soul. In an individual or in a nation, a moral reform, to be radical, to be perma-



ment, must begin in the heart, and work outward into the life. The only motive power which can thus influence the heart is truth applied to it by the conscience. Therefore the work of the true reformer is to present truth to the understanding, to press it on the conscience, to illustrate it by his own life, and win men to the Right, by argument, by expostulation, and by example. The work of renovation, whether of an individual or community, may proceed slowly in this way, but there is no other way in which it can be really accomplished. There are other means sometimes adopted by the impatient reformer, which, though of questionable character, are defended by him, not on the ground of abstract right, but for the reason that they are summary in their operation, and that of two evils it is wise to choose the least. This moral sophistry, which, in plain Saxon, is the advocacy of "doing evil that good may come," has been to many a noble enterprise, as a canker-worm eating out its vitality. They who have not sufficient confidence in God's moral laws, to believe that that which is wrong in the abstract can never be right in practice; that of two moral evils it is never safe to choose either; to do evil for the sake of promoting a good cause, is, always, to injure that cause, must learn these lessons through the sad experience of their own diminished spiritual strength, and the failure of their

schemes of philanthropy. The most fatal danger to an enterprise like ours, lies in the insidious temptations which assail its advocates, to make some slight compromise of principle, to do a little evil, for the sake of attaining a great good. Against this danger Abolitionists should be ever armed, of its approaches ever watchful, lest, in an unguarded hour, the banner which they have so long, with firm hands, borne aloft, should be found trailing in the dust.

In reviewing our labors during the past year, we find the action of this Society so intimately connected with that of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society, that we must look in their harvest-field for the fruits of our sowing. Our Fair, upon which much time and arduous labor was bestowed, abundantly repaid that labor by its success. Our Treasurer's Report will show that a large part of its proceeds have been placed at the disposal of the Executive Committee of the State Society. A long experience has proved the value of Anti-Slavery Fairs, as an instrumentality for carrying on our enterprise. They are the channel through which many contributions flow into our treasury, which would not otherwise be obtained, and the social interests which cluster around them, combined with the opportunities which they furnish for the exercise of taste and skill, attract many a warm young heart within the sphere of their influence. That in-



fluence is ever favorable to the training of true reformers, and thus many an earnest worker and faithful advocate is won for our cause. The good moral influence exerted by our Annual Fair upon those engaged in it, we trace, in part, to the scrupulous care which its managers have always taken to conduct it upon principles of exact justice, and never to yield to the temptation to make a little more money for a good cause, by means which, though often countenanced at Fairs, and pardoned by the public, are not abstractly right. By this course we have won for our Bazaar a good reputation among a portion of the community who were, formerly, opposed to all Fairs, and have also made it a medium for indoctrinating the young in an important principle in morals.

We have circulated during the past year, our usual number of copies of the National Anti-Slavery Standard, the Liberator, the Anti-Slavery Bugle, and the London Anti-Slavery Advocate. While we rejoice most heartily over the improved tone of a portion of the commercial, political, and religious press of the North, and in the anti-slavery influence exerted, in greater or less degree, by some of the leading journals of the country, we are deeply convinced of the vital importance to our cause, of those newspapers which are the organs of the Anti-Slavery movement, and which alone advocate its highest prin-

principles. As in an earlier day these were needed to break the silence of the press on this great question, and to arouse this people from their apathy, they are now, having accomplished that work, equally needed to keep alive the public sentiment which they have created, and to elevate the tone of the press to a far higher degree than that to which they have already raised it. To sustain them according to his ability is the imperative duty of every abolitionist.

Our Association, from the time of its organization, has endeavored to maintain its consistency by bearing occasional testimony against the purchase and use of the products of slave labor. Believing that the pecuniary profit of the system supplies the chief motive for the holding of slaves, we would as far as possible carefully avoid the responsibility of furnishing that motive.

Among the cheering events of the last year we may record the safe escape of a large number of fugitives from slavery ; many of whom pass through our city on their way to a land where personal freedom is protected by law. Although they cannot stay long, for aid or refreshment, in Philadelphia, which is no "city of refuge" or of brotherly love for them, their brief visits suffice to deepen our sympathy in their sorrows and their wrongs, and to intensify our hatred of the system which makes necessary their perilous



and heroic flight. Of the adventures of their northward journey, a journey sometimes performed chiefly by night, of their hiding places by day, of their long fastings, of their hair-breadth escapes from recapture, that most dreaded of evils, they can tell wondrous tales, "stranger than fiction," each of which is a new confirmation of the truth that to the human soul liberty is dearer than life.

In the brief compass of a Society's Annual Report, we cannot recount all the encouraging signs of the times which, during the past year, we have observed, and hailed with grateful pleasure, but there are two which demand our notice. Our anti-slavery literature has been enriched by a book of wonderful power, and of inestimable value as a testimony to the true character of American Slavery. "The Autobiography of a Female Slave" opens before its readers deeper abysses of horror than are revealed even by the world-famous "Uncle Tom's Cabin." To Northern representations of slavery, the South has often responded with charges of ignorance, and with assertions that only southerners and slaveholders could understand southern institutions. Now, one of their own number, one allied to them by birth, education, residence, family and social ties, utters her solemn testimony to the character of southern slavery, and far surpasses northern pens and tongues, in her de-

scriptions of its injustice, its treachery and its cruelty.

The year which witnessed the murderous and cowardly assault upon Charles Sumner, in the Senate of the United States, the year which saw the Slave Power triumphant in the great political contest for liberty or slavery in Kansas, witnessed, also, the first Convention called and held to consider the expediency of dissolving the American Union. This disunion Convention, recently held in Worcester, Massachusetts, may hereafter be remembered as an epoch in our national history ; and the champions of slavery, who have so loudly exulted over their feats of prowess, and their triumphs won, may find that they were victories too dearly bought.

That events are culminating to a most important crisis, in this nation, even the careless observer may perceive. It is impossible to predict, with any confidence, our country's future, but they whose faith in the right is absolute, cannot doubt that the cause of liberty will ultimately triumph. Whether that triumph is to be won through the destruction of this boasting and guilty nation, or whether by timely repentance, and works meet for repentance, it is to be a bloodless victory of right over wrong, none may foretell. But the path of the abolitionist lies plain and straight before him, and if he has strength and courage to walk therein, he needs not mistake it.



The retrospect of every year is saddened by memories of faithful coadjutors who have passed away from earth, leaving the work in which they toiled so well, to be finished by other laborers. During the last year we have mourned the loss of one who, though, for some time past, a resident of Massachusetts, was for many years a faithful and highly-esteemed member of this Society. Such events as these admonish us that *our* time is short, that the angel who has led our companions, one after another, through the mysterious portals of another life, will soon beckon us away from the busy scenes of earthly toil and conflict. Heedful of such admonitions, we would press onward to the labors of another year, with that unfaltering confidence in *Truth*, and that whole-souled devotion to the *Right*, which alone will enable us to endure to the end.

*The Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society in account  
with MARGARET A. GRISCOM, Treasurer.*

1856.	DR.	
2 mo.	To Cash paid Penn. A. S. Society,	\$200 00
3 mo.	" " Penn. A. S. Society,	500 00
4 mo.	" Subscription for N. A. S. Standard,	100 00
	" " Liberator,	25 00
	" " A. S. Bugle,	15 00
	" " A. S. Advocate,	5 00
4 mo.	" Merrihew & Thompson for Printing Report,	20 00
5 mo.	" Penn. Anti-Slavery Society,	50 00
5 mo.	" American Anti-Slavery Society,	100 00
6 mo.	" Penn. Anti-Slavery Society,	50 00
6 mo.	" Sub. to Newport (Ky.) Advocate,	10 00
12 mo.	" Penn. Anti-Slavery Society,	500 00
	" Advertising in Ledger, &c.,	5 62
2 mo., 1857.	Balance in Treasury,	1420 99
		<hr/> \$3,001 61

1856.	CR.	
2mo.	By Balance in Treasury,	\$1112 43
	Members' Subscriptions,	78 50
	From Fair of 1855,	29 25
	Interest on Money Loaned,	11 55
12 mo.	Proceeds of Fair of 1856,	1769 88
		<hr/> \$3,001 61

MARGARET J. BURLEIGH, Auditor.



### PENNSYLVANIA ANTI-SLAVERY FAIR.

THE Fair was held in the Large Saloon of the Assembly Buildings, on the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th of December.

The Receipts were . . . . .	\$2,175 68
Expenses, . . . . .	405 80
	<hr/>
Balance, . . . . .	1,759 88

The Committee report with much satisfaction the result of their labors this year. As in times past, they have proved successful.

Besides the Tables furnished by friends in the City, there were others supplied by Norristown, Germantown, Chelton-hills, Wakefield, Newtown, Bristol, Chester Co., Byberry, Abington and New Jersey. Contributions were received from Kimberton, Lawrenceville, Downingtown, Kennett, Longwood, Christiana, Media, Milton, Salem, Staten Island, and Leeds, England.

We also received, through the liberality of our coadjutors in Boston, beautiful and rare articles from Europe, which commanded a ready sale. A very acceptable donation of £10 was received from a friend in London.

Even after the great outlay of money made by many in the political campaign through which the country has just passed, there were still hands and hearts to contribute funds to aid in spreading before the people the radical doctrines of the Abolitionists, whose watchwords are, "Immediate Emancipation," "No Union with Slave-holders."

Those who were among the earliest laborers in this department of anti-slavery work, felt cheered by the earnest and effective co-operation of many who have grown up under

the influence of our organizations, giving promise that laborers shall not fail till the wrongs and agonies of the slave shall cease.

Also from the south-land came *one* identified by birth and education with the slaveholder, and by legal relations with the slave as his owner, to work with us and to testify to the truthfulness of the principles which we advocate; to assure us, by the cheerful personal sacrifices made to carry them out, that we are not demanding more of the master than his conscience, enlightened by the Spirit of God, acknowledges to be just, and therefore obligatory on him to practice.

Great interest was added to the occasion by addresses delivered on two evenings by Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

The Committee would urge early and energetic labor for the Fair of Eighteen Hundred and Fifty-Seven.

On behalf of the Committee, SARAH PUGH,  
ROSANNA THOMPSON,  
MARGARETTA FORTEN.



# CONSTITUTION

OF THE PHILADELPHIA

## FEMALE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

Whereas, more than two millions of our fellow countrymen, of these United States, are held in abject bondage; and whereas, we believe that slavery and prejudice against color are contrary to the laws of God, and to the principles of our far-famed Declaration of Independence, and recognising the right of the slave to immediate emancipation; we deem it our duty to manifest our abhorrence of the flagrant injustice and deep sin of slavery, by united and vigorous exertions for its speedy removal, and for the restoration of the people of color, to their inalienable rights. For these purposes, we the undersigned agree to associate ourselves under the name of 'THE PHILADELPHIA FEMALE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.'

### ARTICLE I.

The object of this Society shall be to collect and disseminate correct information of the character of slavery, and of the actual condition of the slaves and free people of color, for the purpose of inducing the community to adopt such measures, as may be in their power, to dispel the prejudice against the people of color, to improve their condition, and to bring about the speedy abolition of slavery.

### ARTICLE II.

Any female uniting in these views, and contributing to the funds, shall be a member of the Society.

### ARTICLE III.

The officers of the Society shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer, who, with six other members, shall constitute a Board of Managers. They shall keep a record of their proceedings, which shall be laid before the Society at its stated meetings. They shall have power to fill any vacancy that may occur in their number till the next annual meeting.

### ARTICLE IV.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and shall have power to call special meetings of the Society and of the Board.

## ARTICLE V.

The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in her absence.

## ARTICLE VI.

The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of the transactions of the Society, and notify all meetings of the Society.

## ARTICLE VII.

The Corresponding Secretary shall keep all communications addressed to the Society, and manage all the correspondence with any other bodies or individuals, according to the directions of the Society or of the Managers.

## ARTICLE VIII.

The Treasurer shall collect the subscriptions and grants to the Society, make payments according to its directions, and those of its Managers, and present an audited report at each annual meeting.

## ARTICLE IX.

Stated meetings of the Society shall be held on the second Fifth-day in every month, excepting the Seventh and Eighth months, (July and August.)

## ARTICLE X.

The annual meeting shall be held on the Second Fifth day, (Thursday,) of the Second month, (February,) at which time the reports of the Board and Treasurer shall be presented, and the officers for the ensuing year elected.

## ARTICLE XI.

It is especially recommended that the members of this Society should entirely abstain from using the products of slave labor, that we may be able consistently to plead the cause of our brethren in bonds.

## ARTICLE XII.

This Constitution may be altered at any stated meeting by the vote of two-thirds of the members present, notice having been given at a previous meeting.



The Stated Meetings of the Society will be held during the ensuing year, on the afternoons of the following days :—

Thursday, March 12th, 1857.

Thursday, Oct. 8th, 1857.

"	April 9th,	"	"	Nov. 12th, "
"	May 14,	"	"	Dec. 10th, "
"	June 11th,	"	"	Jan. 14th, 1858.
"	Sept. 10th,	"	"	Feb. 11th, "







